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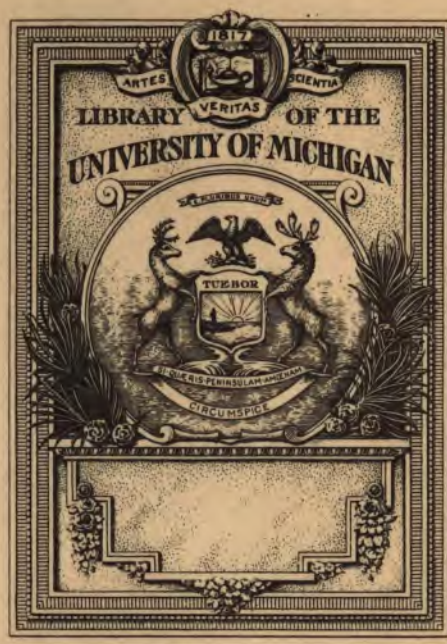


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# REPORT

TO THE

# LEGISLATURE OF MASSACHUSETTS

MADE BY THE

## COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED UNDER RESOLVE, CHAP. 60, 1884,

603

UPON THE

Mass. Commissioners on the

## CONDITION

OF THE

# RECORDS, FILES, PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS

IN THE

## SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT.

JANUARY, 1885.

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# Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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[CHAP. 60.]

RESOLVE relating to the Records, Files, Papers and Documents in the State Department.

*Resolved*, That the governor, with the advice and consent of the council, appoint five suitable persons, one of whom shall be the Secretary of the Commonwealth, who shall be commissioners without pay to investigate the condition of the records, files, papers and documents in the state department. Said commissioners shall make a report in print to the next general court setting forth what steps, if any, should be taken to render the contents of said records, files, papers and documents more accessible for examination and inspection, how reference to the same may be best facilitated, and what is the proper mode of indexing them. [*Approved May 27, 1884.*

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:*

The Commissioners appointed under Chapter 60 of the Resolves of 1884, "to investigate the condition of the records, files, papers and documents in the state department," and to report "what steps, if any, should be taken to render the contents of said records, files, papers and documents more accessible for examination and inspection, how reference to the same may be best facilitated, and what is the proper mode of indexing them," — beg leave to

## REPORT:

Although the Secretary of the Commonwealth is a member of this Commission, and their elected chairman, the other members of the Commission desire to say that they have found the documents of every kind under his charge in as good condition as he has been permitted, with the clerical force at his command, to put them; while at the same time the Commission as a whole, may report that condition to be far from what is desirable.

There have been movements at times, in the history of the Colony, Province and State, undertaken to the end of better ordering the archives of its government; but a clearly defined rule of what constitutes such archives has not been always adhered to, and in earlier days a proper distinction was not always made with public officers between their own and the public papers. For instance, — the province had a succession of accredited agents in London prior to the Revolution. Papers which accumulated in their hands relating to the business of the Province were in some measure at least, but apparently not always, handed over to their successors; but when the outbreak of the war

ended the mission of the last agent, the papers left on his hands were appropriated as private property; and mixed with other papers clearly his own, they now exist in three several depositories as far apart as Cambridge (Mass.), Philadelphia (Penn.), and the library of the University of Virginia. These papers were thus distributed by the younger Richard Henry Lee, who received them from Arthur Lee, the last agent of Massachusetts Bay in England. Again, the public papers accumulated in the hands of Jonathan Trumbull, Governor of Connecticut, were given by his son, David Trumbull, to the Massachusetts Historical Society. The recovery by the State of the Hutchinson Papers from the same society is a matter of record.

These instances of the alienation of state papers by agents of the State, who are above the reproach of faithlessness to their trust, clearly mark a prevailing sentiment in the past which has depleted the archives of this Commonwealth, though probably to a less degree than almost all the others, which belong to the thirteen original colonies of Great Britain.

The Commission have noted one instance in which a distinction was early made between public and private papers. When the Andros government was overthrown in 1689, John West was secretary, and in the Archives (*Felt's*) xxxv, p. 109, is a letter written by him from the prison where he was confined, respecting the public records and his private papers. On the 23d of April, 1689, a committee had been appointed to overlook and take account of the public records and papers then under seizure, and report to the Council (Court Records, vi. 7,) and on Dec. 7, 1689, a committee in response to West's appeal was appointed to make a list of any belonging to West, separating the same from the others, and to report to the Council. (Court Records, vi. 96.) No report is found.

It seems probable that there have not always been clearly defined notions as to the proper custody of certain classes of papers; and from inspection of files in the Secretary's office, there is a suspicion that considerable numbers of papers now exist in that depository, of which complements and supplements may doubtless be found in the keeping of the military

and treasury departments of the government, as well as in court files of various descriptions. If this is the case it may in some measure have arisen by the different distribution of the functions of government which has prevailed at different times; and from a disposition to return to the Secretary's office, papers which have grown old and beyond use for current reference. There are for instance in the Adjutant-General's office, as the Commissioners have been informed, files of unarranged papers, with probably none of them antedating the adoption of the Constitution (1780), the like of which can be found in the Secretary's office, though it may possibly turn out on closer inspection, that they belong to Council files, when cognizance has been taken by that body of military matters. There are in the Secretary's office also, many papers, largely of the Revolutionary period, such as executions for non-payment of taxes, bills and accounts, etc., which probably at some time came from the treasury department, and which could hardly have been included in the disposition of papers provided for in a resolve of the Legislature, Feb. 25, 1829, which directed that files and records, not already under the care of some other officer, should be lodged with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and a list be made. This last provision was in the nature of a supplement to an order of 1827 that a catalogue should be made of the Archives in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

It may be a question if a large number of writs and court papers, at present in the Secretary's office, may not properly be added to a similar collection now in the Court House of Suffolk; but this can only be determined by a more careful inspection than the Commission have been able to give them.

The most extensive work which has ever been done on the Archives of the State was accmoplished between 1836 and 1846, by the Rev. Joseph B. Felt, who was assisted for a part of the time by a boy. Mr. Felt was appointed by Gov. Everett in April, 1836, and was paid during the early part of his labor at the rate of $1,000 per annum, and later $1,200. The vouchers show that he was paid in all $8,-960.33, the binding cost, $1,771.87, making a total of

$10,732.20. The result was 241 volumes of what are known as the MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES, costing as it will be seen an average for arranging and binding of $45 per volume.

Having been subjected in parts to considerable wear, in the forty years which had intervened, about one-half of these, as well as many other bound records of the office, were in 1882–3 repaired in binding at a cost of about $1,700; and they now rest in excellent order in the new cases in the Archive room.

The following enumeration shows the divisions into which Mr. Felt threw the mass of papers, which he selected to be thus preserved: —

MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES.

*As Arranged by Joseph B. Felt, 1836–1846.*

| No. of the Volume. | TITLE. | Period. | No. of Vols. of Subject. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1, . . | Agriculture, etc., . . . . . | 1644 to 1774, . | 1 |
| 2 to 6, | Colonial, . . . . . | 1629 to 1775, . | 5 |
| 7, . . | Commercial, . . . . . | 1686 to 1714, . | 1 |
| 8, . . | Depositions, . . . . . | 1662 to 1766, . | 1 |
| 9, . . | Domestic Relations, . . . . . | 1643 to 1774, . | 1 |
| 10 to 14, | Ecclesiastical, . . . . . | 1637 to 1774, . | 5 |
| 15A, . | Emigrants, . . . . . | 1651 to 1774, . | 1 |
| 15B to 19, | Estates, etc., . . . . . | 1636 to 1774, . | 5 |
| 20 to 22, | Foreign Relations, . . . . . | 1658 to 1775, . | 3 |
| 23–24, . | French Neutrals, . . . . . | 1755 to 1769, . | 2 |
| 25 to 27, | Hutchinson's Correspondence, . . . . | 1741 to 1774, . | 3 |
| 28, . . | Hutchinson's MS. History, vol. 2, etc., . . | 1691 to 1750, etc., | 1 |
| 29, . . | Indian Conferences, etc., . . . . . | 1713 to 1776, . | 1 |
| 30 to 33, | Indian, . . . . . | 1639 to 1775, . | 4 |
| 34, . . | Indian Treaties, . . . . . | 1645 to 1725–76, | 1 |
| 35 to 37, | Inter-Charter, . . . . . | 1689 to 1692, . | 3 |
| 38A, . | Journals, . . . . . | 1695 to 1767, . | 1 |
| 38B to 44, | Judicial, . . . . . | 1640 to 1774, . | 7 |

MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES — *Continued.*

| No. of the the Volume. | TITLE. | Period. | No. of Vols. of Subject. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 45–46, . | Lands, . . . . . | 1622 to 1774, . | 2 |
| 47, . . | Laws, . . . . . | 1645 to 1774, . | 1 |
| 48 to 50, | Legislature, . . . . . | 1643 to 1775, . | 3 |
| 51 to 56, | Letters, . . . . . | 1692 to 1774, . | 6 |
| 57, . . | Letter Books, etc., . . . . . | 1658 to 1779, . | 1 |
| 58, . . | Literary, . . . . . | 1645 to 1774, . | 1 |
| 59, . . | Manufactures, etc., . . . . . | 1639 to 1773, . | 1 |
| 60 to 66, | Maritime, . . . . . | 1641 to 1775, . | 7 |
| 67 to 80, | Military, . . . . . | 1643 to 1774, . | 14 |
| 81 to 86, | Minutes of Council, etc., . . . . . | 1689 to 1775, . | 6 |
| 87–88, . | Miscellaneous, . . . . . | 1630 to 1776, . | 2 |
| 89–90, . | Military Accounts, etc., . . . . . | 1741 to 1760, . | 2 |
| 91 to 99, | Muster Rolls, . . . . . | 1710 to 1774, . | 9 |
| 100 to 104, | Pecuniary, . . . . . | 1629 to 1775, . | 5 |
| 105, . . | Petitions, . . . . . | 1643 to 1775, . | 1 |
| 106, . . | Political, . . . . . | 1638 to 1700, . | 1 |
| 107, . . | Revolution, . . . . . | 1689, . . . | 1 |
| 108 to 110, | Speeches, Messages, etc., . . . . . | 1702 to 1774, . | 3 |
| 111, . . | Taverns, etc., . . . . . | 1643 to 1774, . | 1 |
| 112, . . | Towns, . . . . . | 1632 to 1693, . | 1 |
| 113 to 118, | Towns, etc., . . . . . | 1693 to 1774, . | 6 |
| 119–120, . | Trade, etc., . . . . . | 1645 to 1774, . | 2 |
| 121, . . | Travelling, etc., . . . . . | 1644 to 1774, . | 1 |
| 122 to 125, | Treasury, . . . . . | 1692 to 1770, . | 4 |
| 126 to 129, | Usurpation, . . . . . | 1686 to 1689, . | 4 |
| 130 to 134, | Valuation of Towns, . . . . . | 1760 to 1771, . | 5 |
| 135, . . | Witchcraft, . . . . . | 1656 to 1750, . | 1 |
| 136, . . | Miscellaneous, Pecuniary, Military, etc., . . | 1715 to 1761, . | 1 |
| 137, . . | Revolution Reports, . . . . . | 1774 to 1783, . | 1 |
| 138 to 142, | Revolution Miscellaneous, . . . . . | 1774 to 1791, . | 5 |
| 143, . . | Revolution, etc., Miscellaneous, . . . . | 1772 to 1788, . | 1 |
| 144, . . | Revolution, Conventions, Indians, etc , . . . | 1775 to 1783, . | 1 |

MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES — *Concluded.*

| No. of the Volume. | TITLE. | Periods. | No. of Vols. of Subject. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 145, . . | Revolution, Penobscot Expedition, . . . | 1779, etc., . . | 1 |
| 146, . . | Revolution, Military, . . . . . | 1775 to 1783, . | 1 |
| 147, . . | Indian Truck House Accounts, etc., . . . | 1776 to 1779, . | 1 |
| 148 to 151, | Revolution, Board of War Minutes, . . . | 1776 to 1781, . | 4 |
| 152–153, . | Revolution, Board of War Letters, . . . | 1776 to 1780, . | 2 |
| 154–155, . | Revolution, Royalists, . . . . . | 1775 to 1784, . | 2 |
| 156, . . | Revolution, P. Congress, etc., . . . . | 1774 to 1778, . | 1 |
| 157, . . | Revolution, Maritime, Miscellaneous, . . | 1775 to 1783, . | 1 |
| 158, . . | Revolution, Messages, etc., . . . . | 1775 to 1783, . | 1 |
| 159, . . | Revolution, Prize Cases and Accounts, . . | 1776 to 1780, . | 1 |
| 160, . . | Revolution, Constitution, etc., . . . . | 1778 to 1779, . | 1 |
| 161 to 163, | Valuation, etc., . . . . . | 1777 to 1786, . | 3 |
| 164 to 172, | Revolution, Council Papers, . . . . . | 1775 to 1783, . | 9 |
| 173 to 179, | Revolution, Council Papers, Second Series, . | 1775 to 1783, . | 7 |
| 180 to 188, | Revolution, Petitions, etc., . . . . . | 1775 to 1783, . | 9 |
| 189 to 192, | Shays's Rebellion, . . . . . | 1786 to 1787, . | 4 |
| 193 to 204, | Revolution, Letters, . . . . . | 1774 to 1783, . | 12 |
| 205, . . | Revolution, Letters, Second Series, . . . | 1775 to 1783, . | 1 |
| 206 to 219, | Revolution, Resolves, . . . . . | 1775 to 1778, . | 14 |
| 220 to 227, | Revolution, Resolves, etc., . . . . . | 1778 to 1780, . | 8 |
| 228, . . | Revolution, Resolves, . . . . . | 1780, . . . | 1 |
| 229, . . | Revolution, Resolves, etc., . . . . . | 1780, . . . | 1 |
| 230, . . | Revolution, Resolves, . . . . . | 1780 to 1781, . | 1 |
| 231, . . | Revolution, Resolves, etc., . . . . . | 1781, . . . | 1 |
| 232 to 234, | Revolution, Resolves, . . . . . | 1781, . . . | 3 |
| 235 to 239, | Revolution, Resolves, etc., . . . . . | 1782 to 1783, . | 5 |
| 240 to 242, | Hutchinson's Papers, . . . . . | 1625 to 1771, . | 3 |

NOTE.— The duplication of the serial number under "Estates" and "Judicial" increases the number of volumes as bound to 244. The "Hutchinson Papers" were acquired at a later date, and though added to the series, they are of a size smaller han the volumes arranged by Mr. Felt.

Each volume, as left by Mr. Felt, has a chronological index, or table of contents, which in some volumes gives every paper, but in other volumes designates only groups of papers. Mr. Samuel M. Barton, of the Secretary's office, has discovered that the following papers (with the few exceptions therein named) have been abstracted from these volumes since Mr. Felt arranged them.

Vol. 4, Page 163. Signature (? Sam^l. Danforth) of Report on N. Y. & Mass. Boundary line. Jan. 28, 1757.

6, p. 644. Signature of Gov. Steph. Hopkins, in Letter to Hon. Spencer Phips, relative to trial of Joseph Hughs, accused of murder. June 12, 1756.

14, p. 704. Signature of T. Cushing, Speaker of H. of R. wanting in Order on Petition of W^m. Hewes et al., evidently gone when entered in book. June 11, 1773.

15B, p. 48. Signature of Robert Vose in Bond to Mrs. Ann Glover. July 11, 1654.

20, p. 36. Signatures to Copy of His late Majesty's additional Instructions to His Governors in America in 1752. Cut out before entry in book.

21, pp. 559-560. Letter from W^m. Pitt. (Cut out.) Dec. 7, 1756.

36, p. 343. Signature of Sir W^m. Phips to Receipt from Robert Bronsdon. (Cut out.) 1683.

36, p. 436. Signatures of Increase Mather et al., to Reply of N. Eng. Agents to L^t. Weem's petition. (Torn out.) March 18, 1690.

39, pp. 752. Signatures in Petition and paper in case of estate of Col. W^m. Crown forfeited by Mr. Paine. (Cut out.) Oct. 11, 1682.

44, p. 537. Order for payment to the Supreme Judges. (Cut out) Feb. 4. 1765.

44, p. 706. Certificate of Supreme Judges as to Ebenezer Richardson. (Torn out.) Dec. 16, 1770.

48, p. 303. Order for payment to Hon. W^m. Stoughton. (Cut out.) July 11, 1699.

55, pp. 382-383. Letter from Lord Loudon in N. Y. to Gov. Shirley, commissioned as commander in chief to the King's forces in North America, desires a copy of the acts of Mass. relative to Crown Point. (Cut out.) July 23, 1756.

75, p. 297. Order to forces in Nova Scotia. (Missing.) March, 1756.

97, pp. 1 to 4. Billeting Rolls of Soldiers. (Missing.) 1758.

97, p. 288. Muster Roll, Sylvanus Bourn's Company, Barnstable Co. (Portion missing.) Feb. 28, 1760.

112, p. 74. Petition as to lands in Watertown. (Cut out in lower corner.) 1655.

115, p. 493. Name cut out in Petition for New Braintree to be a town, &c. 1749.

126, p. 336-337. Answer of Mass. Agents to Edw^d. Randolph's account of irregular trade. (Torn out before it was paged.) 1687.

142, pp. 258-259. Account, &c., of Gen^l. Artemas Ward, as a member of Congress. (Cut out.) 1780-1781.

142, p. 270. Receipt for Board, &c., of Sam^l. Adams, as a member of Congress. (Torn out.) 1780-1781.

142, pp. 345-346. Paper relative to Complaint against Cap^t. Ashley, of Salem. (Cut out before indexed.) 1781.

Vol. 144, p. 105. Paper relative to Convention of N. E. & N. Y. Delegates, concerning Embargo Act, &c. (Cut out.) 1779.

145, p. 217. List of Vessels employed in Penobscot Exhibition. (Torn out since indexed.) Sept. 1779.

145, p. 340. Signature of Lt. Col. Paul Revere's defence. (Cut out since indexed.) Oct. 1, 1779.

145, p. 350. Report of Comtee on failure of Penobscot Expedition. (Lower portion torn off.) Oct. 8, 1779.

146, p. 299. Letter of Genl. John Thomas about firearms. (Cut out.) June 30, 1775.

157, pp. 279-282. Papers relating to Ship Victoria. (Missing or not paged.) 1779.

164, p. 18. Resolve appointing Col. Lovell to take charge of Colony boats. (Torn out.) Aug. 24, 1775.

164, pp. 177-178. Paper relative to recommendations of Capts. David Parsons, Thos. Farrington, S. Stevens & Joshua Moody, (Cut out.) 1775.

175, p. 154. Seals to Signatures of Wm Bridge, John Frink & Jonas How in contract to build Continental Barracks in Rutland. (Cut out.) Sept. 27, 1777.

175, p. 451. Letter of Genl. H. Gates. Glorious Victory. (Cut out.) July 19, 1779.

175, p. 451. Order for a spyboat to be fitted out. (Cut out.) July 20, 1779.

177, p. 529. Pass for a Cartel bound to Bermuda. (Cut out.) June 20, 1781.

180, p. 292. Petition of Col. Wm Prescott & other officers. (Cut out.) Jan. 27, 1776.

187, pp. 14-16. Petition of Inhabitants of Manchester. Tax abatements. Jan. 19, 1781.

187, pp. 17-18. Petition of Joseph Nye for town of Harwich. Tax abatements. (Taken out since indexed.) Jan. 22, 1781.

187, p. 19. Petition of Thomas Paine for town of Eastham. Tax abatements. (Taken out since indexed.) Jan. 23, 1781.

187, p. 20. Petition of Paul Revere for trial by Court Martial. (Taken out since indexed.) Jan. 23, 1781.

187, p. 21. Pet. of Philip Marett, with a Certificate. (Taken out since indexed.) Jan. 22, 1781.

187, pp. 22-23. Pet. of Selectmen of Windham, with a Resolve. (Taken out since indexed.) Jan. 1781.

193, p. 165. Letter of William Whipple to Provincial Congress. (Cut out.) May 6, 1775.

194, p. 105. Letter of John Whitcomb to H. of Representatives. (Torn off.) July 23, 1775.

194, pp. 156-157. Letter of Hon. John Adams to Hon. James Otis. (Cut out.) Nov. 23, 1775.

195, p. 316. Paper accompanying Letter of Richd. Derby, Jun. to Prest. of Council. (Either not paged or missing.) Oct. 22, 1776.

196, p. 87. Letter of Comtees of Congress to Prest. of Council. (Cut out.) Dec. 31, 1776.

196, pp. 254-255. Paper relative to Memorial, &c., of Prest. of N. Carolina concerning Brigt. Joseph taken by Privateer Eagle. (Torn out.) 1776 or 1777.

197, p. 309. Paper, accompanying Letter from Meshech Weare, supposed to be relative to affairs at Morristown. (Torn out.) 1777.

198, p. 366, Letter of Genl. Spencer to Council. (Cut out.) Dec. 19, 1775.

200, pp. 100-101. Letter (?) of Count D'Estaing. (Either not paged or missing.) Sept. 19, 1778.

200, p. 110. Letter of Commissioners at Paris to Council. (Cut out.) Sept. 22, 1778.

Vol. 200, p. 203. Letter of Com^tee of Congress to Gov. of Mass. (Cut out.) Nov. 11, 1778.

200, p. 259. Letter of Marine Com^tee (Phila.) to Council. (Cut out since indexed.) Dec. 15, 1778.

200, p. 283. Paper relative to Letter of Gen^l Horatio Gates. (Torn out.) Dec. 1, 1779.

200, p. 315. Letter of John Jay to Council. (Cut out.) Feby. 16, 1779.

200, p. 324. Letter of Gen^l Putnam. (Cut out.)

200, p. 329. Letter of Prest. Rodney of Delaware to Council. (Lower portion torn off.) March 4, 1779.

201, p. 343. Letter of Nath^l Greene, Q. M. Gen^l to Council. (Cut out.) Oct. 7, 1779.

202, p. 295. Letter of Com^tee of Congress to Council. (Cut out.) June 23, 1780.

202, p. 366. Letter of Com^tee of Congress to Council. (Torn out.) July 23, 1780.

203, pp. 281-282. Letter of Board of Admiralty to Gov. Hancock. (Cut out.) April 30, 1781.

203, p. 355. Letter of President of Congress to Gov. Hancock. (Lower portion torn off.) July 12, 1781.

203, pp. 409-410. Letter of President of Congress to Gov. Hancock. (Torn out.) Sept. 10, 1781.

203, p. 418. Letter of President of Congress to Gov. Hancock. (Torn out.) Sept. 29, 1781.

204, p. 150. Letter of John Hanson to Gov. Hancock. (Cut out.) May 28, 1781.

204, p. 240. Letter of Gen^l Benj. Lincoln to Gov. Hancock. (Cut out.) Aug. 13, 1782.

204, p. 440. Letter of Elias Boudinot to Gov. of Mass. (Torn out.) Oct. 2, 1783.

204, p. 451. Letter of Gov. Benjamin Harrison to Gov. of Mass. (Cut out.) Dec. 25, 1783.

205, p. 32. Letter of John Paterson to Com^tee of Supplies. (Cut out.) 1775.

205, p. 76. Letter of Joseph Reed to Com^tee of Supplies. (Taken out.) 1775.

205, p. 238. Letter of Jonathan Glover to Board of War. (Cut out.) 1777.

206, p. 236. Resolve for a grant to Edward Jackson. (Torn out.) Aug. 17, 1775.

206, p. 270. Resolve for delivery of powder for the use of Beverly. (Torn out.) Aug. 18, 1775.

209. p. 403. Paper concerning the collection of woolen stockings for troops. (Cut out.) 1776.

210, p. 108. Resolve of Congress to supply the militia with rations. July 31, 1776.

213, p. 275. Resolve to pay balance of accounts of Hon. Rob^t Treat Paine as Delegate to Congress. (Cut out.) April 18, 1777.

214, p. 146½. Papers relative to Petition of Nath^l Stevens & Samuel Lumber for payment as seamen on sch. Lion. (Cut out.) 1772.

221, p. 10. Choice of Stephen Smith as Naval Officer for Machias. (Torn out.) Feb. 9, 1779.

221, p. 274. Paper relative to license to Mary Wallingford to sell land in York County. (Cut out.) 1779.

230, pp. 209-210. Letter from Prest. of Congress relative to lands ceded to the United States. (Cut out.) 1780.

231, p. 50. Account of Sam^l Holten for expenses as Delegate in Congress. (Cut out ) 1781.

231, p. 79. Paper relative to grant to Elbridge Gerry for his services in Congress. (Cut out.) 1781.

Vol. 232, p. 244. Letter of Saml. Adams requesting permission to return home from Congress. (Taken out.) Aprl. 1781.

237, pp. 490-491. Letter of Robt. R. Livingston, relative to returns of losses sustained from the enemy. (Torn out.) 1782.

238, p. 434. Paper relative to administration on estate of Nathl. Parker of Groton. (Torn out.) 1783.

It is the general opinion of professional investigators that Mr. Felt in the divisionary method which he employed in distributing these papers, made a mistake, both because his classification was in large measure arbitrary and dependent upon form (depositions, letters, reports, etc.) instead of substance, and because, his work continuing over a long period, his opinions of the proper relations of individual papers changed or were not constant. This resulted in papers of a similar kind being separated, and in the omission of others, now to be found in the loose files passed by at one time by him, when at another time he had included in his classifications their equivalents in value and character. This confusion would have been avoided, and relations of time been better preserved in one chronological arrangement, provided with a topical index. It is probable, however, that an exception might have been advisedly made with respect to certain classes of papers from their natural coherency; and it is impossible now to know how far Mr. Felt's arrangement may have naturally been occasioned by one previously existing. Dr. Palfrey, in the preface to the third volume of his *History of New England* (p. vii ), has referred to the present condition of these papers as "chaotic disorder," and it was with a view to remedying this defect that in his time, as Secretary of the Commonwealth, a consolidated chronological index to the series was begun, which was not completed till recently, and now forms seven large volumes.

The resolve for completing this chronological index was passed April 28, 1877. (Resolves, chap. 57.) Under this Resolve the Secretary appointed a principal clerk and two assistants. This clerk, Mr. Albert H. Hoyt, resigned after three months' service, and Mr. Samuel M. Barton, one of his assistants, succeeded him, and after June, 1878, Mr. Barton was the only person employed. The work under

this resolve has been more carefully done, than the earlier parts of this index.

When these volumes were in the immediate charge ot Dr. Edward Strong (who has kindly assisted the Commission in various ways), he found it convenient to form certain topical indexes in lieu of a complete index of that kind, which has never been supplied, and there exists in the office now, for the use of investigators, a number of partial indexes covering the following and other topics: —

Eastern Indians.
Western Indians.
Slaves.
Captives.
Shipping and Piracy.
Manufactures and Trade.
Physic and Surgery.
Wills and Inventories.
Names.
Bonds.
Proclamations and other printed papers.
Baptists, Quakers, Witchcraft, etc.
Indian names of towns and localities (1620–1800,) etc.

In the opinion of your Commission, a thorough revision of the Archives would involve the breaking up of these volumes for re-arranging, in the main, by a strict chronological order, as has been done with the documents in the English State Paper Office; they hesitate to recommend such a process, however, as the printed references of many historians would be vitiated, and the expense would be considerable, while much of the merit of the chronological system is secured by the index already described.

Among the most interesting documents in the Secretary's office are the following original parchments: —

1. The Charter of 1628.
2. The Charter of 1692.
3. The Charter explanatory of the last.
4. The original latin document, usually termed in English, "The exemplification of the judgment for vacating the Charter of 1628." (A contemporary English version of this, edited by Mr. Charles

Deane, was printed in the *Mass. Hist. Soc. Proceedings*, vii., p. 246. This judgment was under a writ of *Scire facias*, and was entered up in 1684, the exemplification being issued in 1685).

5. The Commission to Lord Bellomont for the Suppression of Piracy.

Of these, Nos. 1, 2, and 3 are fitly framed, and hung in the Secretary's private office; while the others are kept in the original document boxes.

Among documents which Mr. Felt did not include in his series, are those contained in volumes, since bound and marked ANCIENT PLANS, GRANTS, etc., five in number, including index, as follows: —

Vol. I., 1643–1715.
Vol. II., 1716–1734.
Vol. III., 1735–1741.
Vol. IV., 1742–1783.
Vol. V., Index (chronological and alphabetical).

There are also in the office (in boxes), the original plans of the several towns of the State made for the first State map in 1795 (under a Resolve of June 26, 1794); those made for the second State map in 1830 (in portfolios, under Resolves of March 1, 1830); the papers (in two boxes), relating to Borden's Survey in 1834. There is also a series of County maps, to which corrections and additions are made from time to time, by the various County Commissioners.

Also, papers relating to the bounds with Connecticut, New York and New Hampshire, 1803–1820 (in a box); those relating to the north-eastern boundary (in a paper box), and those to Rhode Island, 1861–1883 (in two tin cases).

Mr. Ben: Perley Poore was appointed by the Governor in May, 1845, to copy such documents in the French Archives as bore upon the early history of Massachusetts, and his report of Dec. 28, 1847, accompanied by letters from John G. Palfrey and Jared Sparks, constitutes *Senate Document No. 9* (1848). For this work, Mr. Poore was paid $2,960. The transcripts fill ten volumes in folio, and cover a period

from the earliest times to 1780, but unfortunately, some of the papers are entered by title only, and the space left for their transcription has never been filled, though there is an index to the whole. Two large volumes of maps (mostly printed) and engravings, the whole not of much value, complete the series, which is known as the FRENCH ARCHIVES. They have been copied recently for the Archives of the Province of Quebec, and that government is now printing them.

What is known as the GENERAL COURT RECORDS consist of sixty-eight volumes, ending with 1833. Of these, volumes I. to V. are printed in Shurtleff's edition of the *Massachusetts Records*. Of the original five, volumes I., II. and III. are somewhat broken in binding and otherwise dilapitated and are kept in a box. In the volumes after 1780, there are entries of extraneous matters, not properly belonging to the series. Those for 1737–1746 were probably burned, and Mr. Felt was commissioned in 1845, to go to England and secure copies for those years, of the set which had been transmitted at that time to the home government, so that the volumes covering those years are not originals. Previous to the procuring of these transcripts, a volume marked "17 Miscellaneous, 1737–1747," and of fragmentary character, had been made up to supply the deficiency; and not to disturb the serial numbering of the rest of the set, the volumes, procured from England, were numbered $17^1$, $17^2$, $17^3$, $17^4$, $17^5$, so that the whole number of bound volumes is now 73.

There are chronological indexes in the several volumes, but insufficiently made. New indexes of this kind have since been made, in part, covering the period from 1689 to about 1725; but they need revision.

At the time of the union of Plymouth Colony with Massachusetts under the Provincial Charter, the records of the "Old Colony," as the more ancient government began to be called, consisted of twenty volumes, which might naturally have been added to the Archives of Massachusetts.* These volumes consist of the following records: —

* There are also at Plymouth the original patent granted June 21, 1621, by the Company of North Virginia, to John Pierce, in behalf of the Pilgrims, and the later one of Jan. 13, 1629, signed by the Earl of Warwick in behalf of the Council of New England, enlarging the original grant and establishing the bounds. The first of these patents is the oldest State document in New England.

*First.* The Court Records, covering 1633–1691, but with a gap during the Andros rule, Oct. 1686 — June, 1689. Up to 1637, these records were kept in the main, by Governors Bradford, Winslow and Prince; but in 1638, Nathaniel Souther became Secretary of the colony, and kept them till 1645, when Nathaniel Morton succeeded to that office and held it till 1685, and after that period Nathaniel Clark and Samuel Sprague were successively secretaries. These records are in six volumes.

*Second.* A record of deeds. This series seems to have been begun in 1627, when Gov. Bradford made some retrospective entries referring to earlier divisions and transfers, and going back to the original allotments. After this date the entries were made successively by the officers, who kept the corresponding court records, and the whole is embraced in six volumes.

*Third.* A record of wills and inventories, kept correspondingly by the same officers, making four volumes.

*Fourth.* A single composite volume, containing the Judicial acts of the General Court, 1636–1691, written by the successive secretaries; beside the treasurer's accounts, 1658–1686, and a register of births, marriages and deaths from the returns of the several towns. The earliest years are not in the present volume, which for these entries begins in 1647.

*Fifth.* A single volume, in the handwriting of Winslow, Souther and Morton, containing the Colony Laws, 1623–1682.

*Sixth.* The records of the Commissioners of the United Colonies in two volumes. This union which was effected for common safety in 1643, included Massachusetts and Plymouth, as well as Connecticut and New Haven, then distinct colonies. Each colony had a copy of these records; but those of Massachusetts and New Haven have disappeared. The Plymouth copy was first printed by Hazard in 1794, and his edition was used as printers' copy when Dr. Shurtleff printed them. The Connecticut copy, ampler in some respects than the Plymouth, is printed in the *Connecticut Colonial Records*, vol. III.

These twenty volumes remained in the hands of Samuel

Sprague, the last secretary of Plymouth Colony, at the time of the union with Massachusetts Bay, and were held by him till his death in 1710, when, after a brief interval, during which Nathaniel Thomas had custody of them, they were, on the petition of the justices of peace of the three counties of Plymouth, Barnstable and Bristol, and by vote of the General Court, committed to the charge of the clerk of the Superior Court of the county of Plymouth, to remain where they had always been kept in the town of Plymouth. In 1819–20, by order of the General Court, a copy of these records was begun by the late Mr. Benjamin R. Nichols, which included, so far as made, what is now contained in eleven bound volumes preserved in the Secretary's office.

When under a resolve of 1855, the late Dr. Nathaniel B. Shurtleff was employed to supervise the printing of these records, he used for printers' copy these eleven volumes, as transcribed by Mr. Nichols, and the printed edition (Hazard's) of the records of the Commissioners of the United Colonies, as already mentioned. This matter in Shurtleff's edition makes ten volumes, and they include of the original twenty volumes at Plymouth, the following: six of the Court Records; one of the Deeds; one which contains the Judicial Acts, etc,; one of Laws, and the two volumes of the Commissioners Records.

When these were printed, so much money had been spent that the Legislature refused further appropriations. There were still, however, five volumes of deeds and four of wills unprinted. These however, had been copied for the press at a very large outlay — said to have been almost $16,000 — and this printers' copy is now in the Archive room.

A bill was introduced last year into the legislature to authorize the printing of these nine volumes, which it was estimated could be got into four volumes of the exterior appearance of those issued by Dr. Shurtleff; but printed in a manner which would keep their cost within $8,000. The Committee on the Judiciary, to which the bill was referred, made an extended report, from which much of the present statement is drawn. The Committee on Expenditures subsequently referred the bill to the present General Court.

These unprinted transcripts being in the Secretary's office,

the Commission find that it comes within the range of their instructions to consider them, and they are of the opinion that while it is ultimately desirable to print these and other records of the Commonweath, they deem that the expense of it should not be incurred till all the documentary manuscripts in the office are properly arranged and indexed in the manner which they will later specify. They, however, recommend that these unprinted copies be bound, that they may be made convenient for reference.

The COUNCIL RECORDS are unfortunately imperfect. Vol. I. contains those from 1650 to 1656. There is then a gap. The volume called Vol. II. contains those for 1686 and 1687 (then a gap), with those from 1692 to 1698. Vols. III. to XI. continue them to 1747. These volumes, II. to XI., were copied (1845), from the transcripts in the English State Paper Office. The series continued to 1884, makes 97 volumes in all, each volume being provided with a chronological index, not wholly sufficient in the early volumes for convenient use.

The Provincial Charter of 1692, made the Governor and Council a Probate Court, and this body created Judges of Probate by delegation of authority. In Gov. Dudley's time, this delegation was seriously questioned, and finally in 1760, under Pownal, the Governor and Council formally organized themselves as a Supreme Court of Probate, establishing a seal and a separate set of judicial records. They had, however, no more authority at this time than they had always enjoyed and exercised. By article 5 of chapter III. of the Constitution, "all appeals from the Judges of Probate shall be heard by the Governor and Council until the Legislature shall by law make other provision." This limited the Supreme Court of Probate to the hearing of appeals only; and finally by the Act of March 12, 1784, the Legislature transferred this appellate jurisdiction to the Supreme Judicial Court.* Accordingly we find in the Secretary's office a volume of Probate Records of the Council between 1761 and 1784. There is also in the volume of Felt's collection, lettered *Revolution, Miscellaneous, 1772–1788*, a similar probate record extending from Nov. 9,

* Assistance has kindly been rendered in this inquiry, by Mr. Abner C. Goodell, Jr.

1780 to Feb. 22, 1786, seventy-two pages in all. There may be other portions of such records in just as unlikely places in the same series of volumes.

Of the COUNCIL MINUTES, Mr. Felt included in his series, those between July 3, and Oct. 6, 1689. Other minutes then follow in his arrangement, but they are apparently minutes of the General Court, though after May, 1698, they are distinctly called "Council Minutes."

The original minutes from 1776 to 1781 are preserved in blank books, twenty-two in number, and since 1781 they are also bound and are supposed to be continuous.

The COUNCIL FILES previous to 1784 are in Felt's collection; from 1784 to 1884 they are filed in boxes. Pardons and wills, State requisitions, beginning 1784, are also in boxes.

The SENATE PAPERS from 1780 are in files. They are indexed down to 1856, but not later.

Of the JOURNALS OF THE HOUSE, in a printed form, the set in the Secretary's office does not begin till 1730, from which time it is complete so far as printed, except as follows: —

1740, pp. 111–112, 163–166.
1774, May session, 47 pp.
1776–1777 (Legislative year.)
1779–1780 (Legislative year.)

The JOURNALS are believed to have been printed continuously from 1715 to June 17, 1774; to have been again printed from July 19, 1775 to May, 1780, when they were not again printed till the session of 1784–5. There is then a gap till the Legislative year 1807–8, when they were printed, but for that session only. In 1854–5–6–7, a daily journal was printed in sheets, of which there is a set in the State Library; but there is no set in the Secretary's office. In 1864, the original form of printing was resumed, and has since been maintained.

Of the original manuscript Journals before 1780, the only ones existing are those for 1757–58, and a few between 1775 and 1780. Since the last year, the Journals make about 100

volumes; each with an index; and there is also a general index in three volumes covering the years 1827–1855.

The original PAPERS OF THE HOUSE since 1775 are in files. They are indexed up to 1856 in three volumes.

There are about 140 volumes of the Credentials of Senators and Representatives to the General Court, issued under the Constitution of 1780.

In a separate apartment is kept the accumulation of BILLS, RESOLVES and ACTS.

The Bills and connected papers since 1775 are kept in files.

The Resolves before 1836 were engrossed on paper and are in files; since 1836, they are on parchment and bound in volumes.

The Acts, previous to 1826, were engrossed on parchment sheets of different sizes. These are folded and placed in boxes. Since 1826 they have been engrossed on sheets of parchment of uniform size (the size has been once reduced), and these are bound in volumes.

A series of CHARTERS, COMMISSIONS and PROCLAMATIONS begins 1628, and it is wholly made up of copies. Vol. I. covers 1628–1663; Vol. II., 1677–1774; Vol. III., 1734–1757. The later volumes come down to the present date, making 34 volumes in all. Pardons were included after about 1756. There are chronological indexes to the volumes.

The documents of the various Constitutional and other CONVENTIONS, are as follows: —

| | |
|---|---|
| 1779–80. | Journal with papers (in a box). |
| 1788. | Journal with papers (in a box). |
| 1814. | Journal of the Hartford Convention (in a volume). |
| 1820. | Journal of the Convention (in a volume). |
| 1853. | Journal and Debates of the Convention (in printed volumes). |

The records of several earlier conventions are scattered through the Felt Collection,—thus several are in one of the volumes marked "Miscellaneous."

Of LETTERS sent and received, there is a collection extending from 1701 to 1833, bound in 15 volumes, with an

additional volume of later date. These are all copies, and the originals, or other copies, are probably in some, perhaps many cases, in the Felt Collection; but it is desirable to have the collection indexed.

There are also packages of letters from the Province agents in London, of which some are marked duplicate and triplicate, and of these it is uncertain how many originals or other copies are preserved in the volumes marked "Letters" in the Felt Collection. Some files are marked "Correspondence with the United States and other States, 1783–1828;" "Correspondence with Congress, 1786;" "Secretary's Letters, 1778–1831;" "Resignations, 1786–1803," and other letters accompanying the transmission of public documents (1789, 1810–44, perhaps unimportant), beside the more recent and current files.

There is a considerable accumulation of papers relating to MAINE, to land grants there, and to the separation of the district from the State. One section of the casing in the Archive room is filled with papers, bound and in files, relating to eastern lands. The earliest volume is one relating to claims, beginning in 1674; and another of Andros land-warrants, 1687. There are six volumes containing allotments made in quieting settlers on the lands of the Plymouth Company, and the Waldo Patent, which contain many plans. These date about 1802–1810.

A lot of loose plans connected with the deeds of these Maine lands was by act of Legislature transferred, (it seems to your Commissioners unadvisedly,) about ten or twelve years ago to the Maine Land Office. Copies of such plans ought in preference to have been sent. A lot of such plans and maps has been discovered in the cellar since the transfer was made, and these have been mounted and rolled.

The chief papers relating to the separation of Maine, are kept in a box, though there are others in packages; and there are also files of papers relating to delinquent taxes and other matters in Maine.

Many of these Maine papers came from the Land Agent's Office now extinct.

Relating to the FRENCH AND INDIAN WARS of the last cen-

tury, we found, apart from those included under different heads by Mr. Felt in his Collection, papers of the following descriptions, tied up in packages: —

| | |
|---|---|
| Accounts, | 1740–60. |
| Bayonet Rolls, | 1758–59. |
| Billeting Rolls, | 1747–58, 1751—57, 1758–59. |
| Bills, | 1748–57. |
| Crown Point Expedition, | 1754–56, 1756, 1755–56 (army shoes.) |
| Express Riding, | 1748–57, 1755–59. |
| Fort Massachusetts, | |
| Forts and Indians at the Westward, | 1748–59. |
| French Wars, | 1748–59, 1748–56, 1752–53, 1755–57. |
| Military Expenses, | 1748–56. |
| Sick Soldiers, | 1748–54, 1758–59, 1746–58 (doctors' bills.) |
| Thomas (Isaac), Commissary's Accounts, | 1756. |

The muster rolls of this period are included in vols. 91–99 of the Felt Collection, as noted on an early page. It may be convenient to recapitulate the contents of these volumes in this place.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Vol. 91. | Rolls of Sir Charles Hobby's and 3 other Regiments, 1710; of 20 Companies at Annapolis Royal, 1710, 1711; of Frontier Garrisons, town companies and vessels, 1721–1742; of Expedition to Spanish West Indies, | 1740 |
| Vol. 92. | Rolls of Garrisons, town companies, scouting parties, and Vessels, | 1740–1749 |
| Vol. 93. | Rolls of Eastern Expedition, men and Vessels; of Crown Point Expedition; of garrisons, scouts, and town companies, | 1748–1755 |
| Vol. 94. | Rolls of Crown Point Expedition; of casualties and effectives at Fort William Henry; of garrisons and town companies, | 1755, 1756 |
| Vol. 95. | Rolls of Crown Point Expedition and of garrisons; Alarm Lists of Towns, | 1756, 1757 |
| Vol. 96. | Rolls of French War and of garrisons, | 1757, 1758 |
| Vol. 97. | Rolls of second Louisbourg Expedition; of Canada Expedition; of H. M. Ships up St. Lawrence, and of frontier garrisons. | |

Vol. 98. Rolls of Louisbourg and Crown Point Expeditions; of H. M. Ships up the St. Lawrence, and of garrisons, . . 1760, 1761
Vol. 99. Rolls of Louisbourg Expedition, . . 1761, 1762
Company Officers of all Massachusetts Regiments, . . . 1761–1767 and 1771–1774

There are no original muster-rolls of the first Louisbourg Expedition (1745) in the office, but there is a volume made up of copies of the rolls in the Pepperrell and Belknap Papers, preserved in the library of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Belonging to the PROVINCIAL PERIOD is also a large accumulation of papers in packages, to which no extended examination was given, but they appear to consist of the following kinds: —

Court papers of all sorts, — accounts, letters, writs and other legal documents, some of them earlier than 1700.
Accounts of all kinds, some of which are in books.
Miscellaneous papers, such as lists of residents of Boston and Rumney Marsh, 1711–30; private mercantile books, 1731–32, etc., etc.

Respecting the REVOLUTIONARY WAR, there is, in the first place, a great mass of papers, arranged in 60 volumes. In the following enumeration the words in capitals show how each volume is lettered on the back, and the Roman numerals indicate the serial numbers of the volumes.

Vols. I., II., III. RHODE ISLAND SERVICE. (Muster rolls, 1776–1780.)
IV. SIX MONTHS, TOWN ROLLS. 1780–1782.
V., VI., VII. ARMED VESSELS. BONDS. (Bonds for privateers in alphabetical order of names of vessels, 1775–1780.)
VIII. VARIOUS CHARTER PARTIES. DOC. REL. TO PRISONERS. (Bond and charter parties for vessels. Lists of prisoners, American and British. Cartels and exchange of prisoners. Paroles. 1776–1780.)

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NOTE. — The foregoing nine volumes are catalogued in a volume labelled "French War Rolls;" and there is a table of contents in each volume. The names contained therein have never been indexed.

IX. DOC. REL. TO PRISONERS. BERKSHIRE CO. 3 YEARS. INVALIDS AND HALF PAY. CER. OF REVOLU. SERVICE. DESERTERS' LISTS. PAY ROLLS. (Paroles and exchanges of prisoners, American and British, 1776–1780. Bounty receipts of 3 years' men from Berkshire, 1781. Invalid pensioners, 1779–1783. Certificates of service in Shays's Rebellion, 1787. Deserters from Mass. Continental regiments, 1777–1780. Rolls of Hampshire County men, 1782.)

X. SOLDIERS' ORDERS. (Rolls, warrants, certificates and descriptive lists of Continental regiments, 1777–1781. Rolls and papers concerning a few militia regiments, 1775.)

XI. SOLDIERS' ORDERS. DISCHARGES, SOLDIERS' RECEIPTS. LEXINGTON ALARM. (Rolls of Continental regiments, 1776–1782. Discharges and receipts of soldiers, 1779–1781. Lexington Alarm Rolls, in alphabetical order of Captains' names, 1775.)

XII., XIII. LEXINGTON ALARM. (Rolls continued as in vol. XI. 1775.)

XIV. to XVI. EIGHT MONTHS' SERVICE. (Rolls of army at the Siege of Boston, August, 1775. *See, also, vol. LVI.*)

XVII., XVIII. VARIOUS SERVICE. (Rolls of Companies, in alphabetical order of the Captain's names, 1776–1781.)

XIX. to XXIV. VARIOUS SERVICE. MUSTER ROLLS. (Same in character as vols. XVII. and XVIII.)

XXV. CASTLE AND HARBOR ROLLS. 6 MOS. MEN, ETC. (Rolls of men at Castle, 1776–1785; at Hull, 1776–1783; at Rutland, etc., *guards*, 1777–1781. Descriptive lists of three years' and six months' men, 1780. Returns of three years' men from Berkshire County, 1777–1778. Returns of M. Jackson's and Marshall's Continental regiments, 1777–1780.)

XXVI. FIELD AND STAFF ROLLS. MUSTER ROLLS. (Field and staff officers of militia regiments, 1775–1782. Company officers of Continental and militia regiments, 1776–1780. Nomination or choice of Continental or Militia officers, 1776–1778. Letters and certificates of service, 1775–1781. Sundry regimental

returns, 1775–1781. Personal accounts for military service, 1775–1781. Rolls of Col. H. Jackson's Continental regiment, 1780; of Col. Dike's militia regiment, 1776–1777. List of officers and men, "transferred" and "not included," 1780.)

XXVII. BOOKS. ENLISTED MEN AND OFFICERS. (Six months' Continental men from each town in Massachusetts and York County, Maine, 1780. Same for three years for Cumberland County, 1778; and for Suffolk, Plymouth, York, Essex, Middlesex, and Cumberland Counties, 1777. Men from towns in Plymouth County, 1777. Pay-rolls of nine months' men in several Continental regiments, 1779–1780. Men receiving £6 bounty in Craft's Continental Artillery Regiment, 1777. Militia men from towns in Plymouth County, 1778(?); Field and company officers of Massachusetts militia regiments. Field officers of militia regiments, namely, 66 colonels, 61 lieutenant-colonels, 132 majors, with dates of commissions, 1776–1777. *A recent hand has added some memoranda of Massachusetts war vessels.*)

XXVIII. BOOKS. MILITIA OFFICERS. NINE MONTHS' MEN AND CONTINENTAL BALANCES. (Field officers of Mass. regiments before the Revolution, 1767–1774. Field and company officers of each militia regiment, 1775–1780. Officers of reinforcements for Canada and Ticonderoga, 1776. Officers of sea-coast companies, 1776. Continental three years men from Suffolk and Essex County towns, 1780. Descriptive lists of Continental nine months' men from all the towns, at Fishkill, 1778. Officers of Continental regiments, 1777. Officers promoted in Continental army, 1779–1780. Rank of officers of 15 Continental regiments as established at West Point, 1779. Deceased Continental officers and men, 1782, 1786. Officers of Massachusetts navy, *incomplete*, 1776–1777. Continental balances due officers and men, 1782. Partial list of general and staff officers of Continental men.)

XXIX. BOOKS. ENLISTED MEN. WARRANT PAY ROLLS. (Three years' Continental men from each town, 1776–1781. Return of H. Jackson's Continental regiment, 1777. Descriptive lists of men from each town, 1779. Four Suffolk regiments of militia,

1776. Men entitled to $20 bounty or 200 acres of land. Militia pay-rolls, 1781–1783. Sixty Continental and militia company rolls, 1779–1780.)

XXX. BOOKS. WARRANTS TO PAY ROLLS. (Continental or militia pay rolls, 1781–1783. Proofs of militia pay rolls. Continental or militia pay rolls, 1779–1785.)

XXXI. BOOKS. ABSTRACTS OF ROLLS. DEPRECIATION ROLLS. (Abstracts of Continental [1780–1783] militia [1775–1783] and naval [1783] rolls. Due to towns for supplies to soldiers' families, 1781–1785. Depreciation rolls of 16 Continental regiments, etc., 1777–1779.)

XXXII. BOUNTY RECEIPTS, SUFFOLK, ESSEX, AND MIDDLESEX COUNTIES. (Bounty receipts and muster-masters' receipts, Essex, Middlesex, and Suffolk, 1779–1781. Field and company officers, and drafts and detachments from Essex regiments, 1776–1778. Men from Essex County, 1779; from Middlesex County, 1782.)

XXXIII. BOUNTY RECEIPTS, MIDDLESEX, ESSEX, AND WORCESTER COUNTIES. (Bounty receipts, 1781–1782. Descriptive lists of men from Worcester County towns, 1781. Orders for pay, Worcester towns, 1781–1782. Muster-masters' returns, 1781. Superintendent's returns of three years' men, 1781. Descriptive lists from Hampshire towns, 1781. Rolls of saddlers, carpenters, and mechanics, at Fishkill, 1781.)

XXXIV. BOUNTY RECEIPTS, HAMPSHIRE, PLYMOUTH AND BRISTOL COUNTIES. COUNTIES IN MAINE. (Bounty receipts and accounts, Hampshire [1780–1782], Plymouth [1780–1782], York and Lincoln [1780–1781] towns. Descriptive lists, Bristol County towns, 1780–1781.)

XXXV. ARMY RECEIPTS, 1775. DESCRIPTIVE LISTS, 1780. VARIOUS PAY ROLLS. (Receipts of soldiers at Cambridge, June, July, 1775. Descriptive list of six months' men in each town, 1780. Sea coast companies, 1775–1781.)

XXXVI. SEA COAST DEFENCE MUSTER ROLLS. (Rolls and papers, 1775–1780.)

XXXVII. SEA COAST DEFENCE. PENOBSCOT EXPEDITION. (Coast defence rolls, papers and officers, 1775–1779. Machias and Cumberland pay-rolls,

1777–1783. Penobscot Expedition rolls, 1779–1780, with orders of council and board of war, lists of vessels chartered, and miscellaneous papers, 1779.)

XXXVIII. PENOBSCOT EXPEDITION AND CRAFTS REGIMENT. (Penobscot expedition [27 pp. only], 1779. Pay rolls and abstracts Crafts' [Revere's] artillery, 1776–1780.)

XXXIX. NAVAL SERVICE. (Pay-rolls and papers relating to eight war vessels, 1775–1782.)

XL. NAVAL SERVICE. PRIVATEERS. LISTS OF RECRUITS. (Rolls of board of war vessels on commercial voyages. Descriptive lists of crews of privateers, 1780–1781. List of vessels of Penobscot Expedition, 1779. Bounty receipts, returns, etc., Suffolk County, 1778. Descriptive lists of Suffolk County men, 1778. Suffolk County men and officers, 1776–1778. Continental men receiving $300 and £20 bounties, 1777–1780.)

XLI. BOUNTIES. ENLISTMENT RETURNS. OFFICERS. (Rolls and descriptive lists of men from Essex, Middlesex and Worcester counties, 1777–1778. Bounty receipts and town bounty accounts, Suffolk, etc., 1777–1781. Officers in Middlesex County, etc., etc., 1776–1777.)

XLII. ENLISTMENT ROLLS. BOUNTIES, OFFICERS, ETC. (Rolls and descriptive lists for Worcester, Berkshire, Hampshire, 1776–1779. Officers, etc., for Hampshire, Berkshire, Bristol, Plymouth, 1776–1779. Men from Plymouth towns, 1777–1779. Miscellaneous papers, 1775–1780.)

XLIII. ENLISTMENT ROLLS. BOUNTIES. LISTS OF OFFICERS. (Barnstable County men, officers, miscellaneous, papers, 1776–1778. Company officers of all the regiments, 1776. General, field and staff officers, 1776. Miscellaneous papers, 1776–1781. Descriptive list of men from towns [1777–1778] of Maine, with lists of men and officers [1777–1780] and other papers [1775–1781].)

XLIV. NAVAL PUBLIC VESSELS. (Board of war vessels [commercial] 1777–1778. Cartels, prizes, miscellaneous, 1777–1780. Penobscot Exhibition, sundry papers, 1779.)

XLV. PUBLIC VESSELS. MILITARY. MISCELLANY. (Board of War vessels [commercial] 1777–1780. State vessels, 1776–1783. Receipts of bounties

and town bounty accounts, 1778–1782. Cartels, prize cargoes, 1776–1782. Descriptive lists of men from various towns, 1779. Certificates of service, discharge or disability, 1776–1783. Military officers and choice of officers, 1776–1780. Lists of Mass. regiments, 1776 (?). Miscellaneous papers.)

*⁂* The index for these 45 volumes is in two volumes for Vols. XI., XII. and XIII., called *Lexington Alarm Rolls*, and all the rest are indexed together in eight volumes, lettered *Index to Muster Rolls, etc.* The names of officers in volumes XXVII. and XXVIII. are indexed separately in one volume.

XLVI. MUSTER AND PAY ROLLS. BUNDLE 25. TICONDEROGA, No. 1. (Rolls of Col. Phinney's regiment, Fort George, 1776; of Col. Reed's regiment, Cambridge, 1776; of Crane's artillery, 1777–1778; of artificers, 1777–1779; of Col. Wood's, Worcester County, regiment, 1778–1779; of Col. Thomas Poor's, Essex County, regiment, 1778; and miscellaneous rolls, 1775–1779.)

XLVII. MUSTER AND PAY ROLLS, 1777–1780. TICONDEROGA, No. 2. (Rolls of Col. Simonds, Berkshire, regiment, 1777; of Col. Robinson's, Hampshire, 1777; of Col. Whitcomb's [1777] regiments; of Nicolas' regiment of invalids, 1779; and miscellaneous rolls, 1776–1780. Rolls of Rhode Island soldiers, — Col. Angell's regiment, 1779–1780; Col. Green's battalion, 1778–1779; and other Rhode Island rolls, 1777–1781.)

XLVIII. MUSTER AND PAY ROLLS, 1778, 1780. (Rolls of Col. H. Jackson's regiment, West Point, Rhode Island and Pennsylvania, 1778–1780; of Tupper's regiment, 1779; of Vose's regiment, Valley Forge, 1777; of Marshall's regiment, West Point, 1779; of Nixon's regiment, North River, 1779; of Bigelow's regiment, 1777; of Poor's regiment, West Point, 1778; of Colonels Park's, Bradford's and Greaton's regiment, 1777–1780.)

*⁂* The index to Vols. XLVI., XLVII. and XLVIII. is in a separate volume marked *Ticonderoga Service, etc.*

XLIX. MASS. MISCELLANEOUS ROLLS. (Various companies and papers, 1775–1781. Rolls and receipts of Capt. Lock's Cambridge Company, 1775. Men enlisted in Knox's artillery, 1775. Rolls of four Continental companies, 1780, 1783.)

*⁂* This volume contains an index.

L. WORCESTER ROLLS, 1781, 1783. No. 1. (Rolls of fourteen Continental regiments, 1776–1783; of Col. Goose Van Schaick's New York regiment, 1781.)

LI. WORCESTER ROLLS, 1781, 1783. No. 2. (Rolls of eight Continental regiments, 1776–1782. Receipts for pay and other papers, 6th regiment, 1780. Receipts and gun rolls, Whitcomb's militia regiment, 1775.)

*⁂* Vols. L. and LI. are indexed in one volume.

LII. MISCELLANEOUS LOOSE ROLLS, No. 1. (Rolls of State armed vessels, 1776–1783. Roll of a Company of Connecticut artificers, 1777–1778. Printed list of Deserters, 1776. Miscellaneous rolls and papers, 1775–1783.)

LIII. MISCELLANEOUS LOOSE ROLLS, No. 2. (Rolls of State armed vessels, 1776–1782. Crew of "Reprisal" captured by British, 1778. Descriptive list of nine months' men, 1779. Roll of Col. Greaton's Regiment, 1776–1783. Men entitled to gratuity of $20 or land, 1801–1803. Miscellaneous Company rolls, receipts, etc., 1776–1783.)

*⁂* Vols. LII and LIII are indexed in a separate volume.

LIV. WORCESTER ROLLS. PARCELS 2ND AND MIXED ROLLS. No. 1. (Book of Final Certificates of 6th Continental Regiment, 1785. Orders for pay, etc., same regiment, 1782–1788. Thirty-three rolls of Capt. Varnum's Dracut Company, 1776–1783. Miscellaneous muster and pay rolls.)

LV. WORCESTER ROLLS. PARCELS 2ND AND MIXED ROLLS, No. 2. (Rolls of Capt. Ford's, Wilmington, 1775–1779; Capt. Walton's, Cambridge, 1777–1778; Capt. Jno. Ford's, Chelmsford, 1775–1777, and of Capt. Joshua Reed's, 1777, Companies; and rolls with papers, of Col. N. Wade's regiment, 1778–1779; of Col. Sheldon's dragoons, 1777–1779, and of Col. Alden's 6th Battalion, 1777–1778; besides numerous miscellaneous rolls, etc.)

*⁂* Vols. LIV. and LV. are indexed in a separate volume, and there is a supplementary index to vols. LII., LIII. and in another volume to vol. LV.

LVI. COAT ROLLS. 8 MONTHS' SERVICE, 1775, No. 1, ROLLS. (Twenty-eight regiments of the army at Cambridge. *See vols. XIV. to XVI.*)

*⁂* This volume has a separate index, in two volumes.

LVII. COAT ROLLS. 8 MONTHS' SERVICE, 1775, No. 2, ORDERS. (Soldiers' orders for coats. Duplicates of names in Vol. LVI.)

LVIII. BALDWIN'S REGIMENT, 1775, 1777. FILES, No. 1. (Very full rolls and abstracts of Baldwin's, late Gerrish's regiment, 1775–1777; with returns of men who went in the Trenton expedition from said regiment, etc.; and returns of the guard at Cambridge and at New York.)

*** There is a partial index to LVIII.

LIX. BALDWIN'S REGIMENT, 1775, 1777. FILES, No. 2. (Articles lost by soldiers on retreat from New York, 1776. Arrangement of army at Cambridge, 1775. Portions of several orderly books [very incomplete] 1775–1776. Rolls and returns of companies and officers of Baldwin's regiment, 1775–1777. Numerous papers about this regiment, 1775–1777.)

LX. MARSHALL'S 10TH AND BROOKS' 7TH REGIMENTS. (Pay rolls, Marshall, 1778–1780; Brooks, 1781–1782.)

*** There is an index to this volume bound with an index to the rolls and military papers in Felt's Collection, various volumes, viz., vols. 146, 164–179, 180–188, 206–239.

A series called *Continental Army Books*, consists of printed forms, filled in and bound in 21 volumes, as follows: —

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| No. 1. | Vose's regiment, . . . . | 1777–1779, 1780. |
| 2. | Bailey's " . . . . | " " " |
| 3. | Greaton's " . . . . | " " " |
| 4. | Shepard's " . . . . | " " " |
| 5. | Putnam's " . . . . | " " " |
| 6. | Nixon's " . . . . | " " " |
| 7. | Brooks's " . . . . | " " " |
| 8. | M. Jackson's " . . . . | " " " |
| 9. | Wesson's " . . . . | " " " |
| 10. | Marshall's " . . . . | " " " |
| 11. | Tupper's " . . . . | " " " |
| 12. | Sprouts's " . . . . | " " " |
| 13. | Smith's " . . . . | " " " |
| 14. | Bradford's " . . . . | " " " |
| 15. | Bigelow's " . . . . | " " " |
| 16. | H. Jackson's " . . . . | " " " |
| 17. | Crane's artillery, . . . . | " " " |
| 18. | Commissioned and staff officers, . . | 1777, 1779. |
| 19. | " " " " . . . | 1780. |
| 20. | Mixed regiments, . . . . . | 1779. |
| 21. | " " . . . . . | 1780. |

These 21 volumes are indexed collectively in two volumes. Each volume, excepting the last four, also contains at the beginning, an index of the three years' service (1777–1779), and in the middle another for the service of 1780.

Certificates of military service in the Revolution, as drawn from the foregoing volumes, have been issued for transmission to Washington, or for other use, since May, 1843, together with statements about the rolls, and these are copied in three volumes, each of which is indexed.

Other volumes, not numbered, are : —

Book of Calvin Smith's (6th) Regiment, 1781–1782.

Book of Vose's (1st) Regiment, 1781–1783.

Copies of Rolls of Phinney's Militia Regiment at Ticonderoga, 1776 ; of rolls of field and company officers of 16 Militia Regiments, Jan. 1, 1776 ; wagoners, 1777–1781 ; officers of nine continental regiments, 1783.

Rolls containing names from Mass. and from other States, 1775.

Killed, wounded and prisoners at Quebec, Dec. 31, 1775, with list of soldiers under Gen. Arnold.

Journal of the Committee of Safety, November, 1774, to July, 1775, 1 vol.

Also in files : —

Col. Smith's 6th regiment accounts, 1778–1783.

Col. Bradford's regiment, return of men, 1779.

Col. Glover's regiment, pay rolls, 1775–76.

Col. Sylvanus Smith's 5th regiment, rolls, 1777–1783.

Town Returns of three-years' men.

Worcester rolls, receipts and orders.

Rolls of the Castle, Boston Harbor, 1779.

Papers of the same, 1779–81.

Col. Nixon's regiment, accounts, 1777.

Of *Orderly Books and Company Books* there are :—

Baldwin's Orderly Book, Jan. 5 to Mar. 28, 1776, 1 vol.

Col. Wheelock's Orderly Book, Tyconderoga, Aug. to Nov. 1776, 1 vol.

Capt. Sabin Mann's Company Book (Medfield) 1776–81, (in a parcel).

East Compton Company Journal (files).

Capt. Samuel Sawyer's (Lancaster) Orderly Book, Long Island and New York, Aug. 22 to 27th Nov., 1776; 1 vol. (contains also other matters).
Orders at Newburg, 1782.
Various Company Books (in parcels).

Of *Accounts and Final Settlements:—*

Regimental Account Books, 19 volumes, beside others in files.
Final Settlements of Nixon's Regiment, 1778–82, 1 vol.
Final Settlement of Brooks's Regt., 1778–82, 1 vol.

Of the *Board of War:—*

Accounts, 1776–79, 1 vol.
Orders on Commissary Devens, 1776–79, 1 vol.
Files and Accounts in various packages.

Of *Maritime Affairs:—*

Frigate "Deane," S. Nicholson, Commander, muster-rolls, 1781–82; 1 vol.
Naval Rolls, 1 vol.
List of Privateers (index), 1 vol.
Log-book, 1775, 1 vol.
Log-book, schooner "Industry," July 29, to Sept., 1775; 1 vol.
Log-book, sloop "Winthrop," 1783; 1 vol.
Log-book, H. M. Ship "Rainbow," Thos. Collingwood, Commander, Oct. 28, 1773, to Sept. 28, 1774; 1 vol.

There are also many packages and files, relating to prizes, merchant ships, armed vessels, cartels, shipbuilding, naval orders, with papers of mercantile voyages and commercial letters.

Of the *Commissary Department* there are these in volumes:—

Receipts for provisions, Apr. to Aug., 1775.
Supplies to Officers, 1778.
Commissary-General's Receipts, 1777.
Provisions received and delivered, 1775.
Account of Provisions at Roxbury, Apr. 20 to June 10, 1775.
Commissary's letter-book, 1779-80.
Beef-book (by towns), 1781.
Wood returns, brought to camp, 1776.
Truck-house accounts, 1776–1782, 2 vols.

Bakers' accounts, 1775.
Commissary Blaney's book, Apr. and May, 1775.

In packages and files there is a large mass of such papers as these :—

Shoes from stores at Roxbury, 1775.
Permits to export flour from New York, 1778.
Flour sent to Rhode Island, 1780–86.
Invoices of flour and rice, 1778–79.
Town reports and vouchers for beef.
Wood for the army at Cambridge, 1776.
Supplies of milk.
Palmer's plan for salt works.
Accounts of provisions, 1775–83.
Money-orders and letters of Commissary of Supplies, 1775, 1778.
Receipts for Supplies, 1775–90.
Soldiers' Supplies, Plymouth, Middlesex, Hampden, etc.
Ration rolls.

In regard to *Military Clothing*, there are two volumes of Coat rolls, a clothing account (1780), and Capt. Watson's Clothing book (1783), in volumes, besides various returns of similar character in files.

There are accounts and certificates of the *Quartermaster's department* in books, including those of Doolittle's Regt., in 1775.

The *Medical service* is shown by a volume of Dr. N. W. Appleton's medical charges, and files of Doctor's bills, 1771–76.

The *Express service* is shown in a volume, containing expenses, beginning May 26, 1775.

Regarding supplies of *munitions*, etc., there are in volumes :—

Military Stores supplied to various regiments, 1775.
Journal of war supplies, 1776, and in files such endorsements on packages as these are found :
- Orders for ammunition, 1775.
- Orders for fire arms, 1778 (by towns).
- Furnaces for shot and shell.
- Town receipts for fire-arms, powder, etc., 1775–79.
- Intrenching tools, supplied by towns, 1776.
- Manufacture of saltpetre and of gunpowder, 1776.

The *Treasury* records include in volumes such as these: —

Warrants on the Treasury, 1775–76.
General disbursements, 1776–80.
Disbursements for the poor of Boston, Charlestown and the sea coast, 1774–77.
Disbursements in opposing Great Britain, to Nov. 14, 1775 (2 books).
Sundry payments and supplies, 1776–85.

And in files there are packages, marked, of this kind: —

Warrants on the Treasury, 1776–82.
Old Treasury notes, 1776–79.
Town taxes.
Treasurers' warrants, 1774–84.
Receipts of members of the General Court, 1776–1780, etc., etc.

Among the papers stored in the so-called "Dungeon" is a mass of warrants on the Treasury, pay-rolls of the Legislature (1760–74), and Treasury notes and receipts.

In the nature of *Bonds*, *Bounties*, *Grants*, etc., are papers of the following endorsements: —

Bonds, Obligations (lists), War Office, 1777–80. 1 vol.
Record of bounty notes, to whom issued, 1777. 1 vol.
Lists of men receiving bounties ($20, $50, 200 acres, etc.). 1 vol.
Final settlements. 3 vols.
Bounties and supplies to soldiers' families.

Also in files: —

Orders for pay, 1775–80.
Certificates of gratuities granted by the General Court, 1779.
Gratuities.
Abstracts of pay, 1777–80, and a mass of Revolutionary grants in a box.

Of the nature of *Pension records* there arein volumes: —

Applicants in 1832.
Certificates, 1786.
Accounts, 1786–1836.
Old soldiers' certificates.

There are files relating to Printing and Stationery, 1770–1780; a package of printed papers (proclamations, orders, etc.); accounts of a public dinner in 1780; papers regard-

ing the Boston poor, 1776–78; town returns, 1775–1785, and numerous packages of less definite endorsements, all pertaining to the Revolutionary period.

Respecting the Royalists, beside the two volumes in the Felt Collection, there are in volumes: —

Accounts of absentees' estates. 1 vol.
Schedules of absentees' estates, 1776–1778. 1 vol.
Final settlements of absentees' estates. 1 vol.
Various account books of the sales of sequestered goods.

And in files: —

Lists of suspected tories, 1776–85.
Vouchers of sales of absentees' estates, etc., etc.

Among the mass of files of a period subsequent to the Revolutionary War, endorsements of the following kinds were noted: —

Shays's Rebellion, 1787, various packages.
Quartermaster General's accounts, 1798–1812.
Militia (beginning 1800).
Military organizations, 1784–1826.
Military appointments, 1784–1829.
Military, 1790–92.
Banks, 1800–
Schools, 1800–
Public Institutions, 1800–
French matters, 1793–98.
Lighthouses, 1785–92.
Fugitive slaves.
Agents' accounts for building the State House, 1797–98.
Passport vouchers.
Returns of State Institutions.
Petitions for office, 1800–
Indian papers.
Claims of Massachusetts against the United States, 1824–

The muster rolls of the War of 1812 are not in the office, but are in Washington, whither they were sent, it would appear, under the Resolve of Feb. 1, 1816, which directed the Secretary and Treasurer to deliver to the agent appointed to prosecute the claim of Massachusetts against the General Government, all rolls, vouchers, accounts and papers

necessary to substantiate that claim for expenses incurred during the war. The Legislature of the State, at various times, has passed resolves looking to the recovery of these rolls, but they have never been obtained. The Adjutant General has succeeded in obtaining copies of a part of them, and these copies are in his office, as we are informed.

An indication, sufficient for the purpose of this report, has thus been given of the great variety of papers, as written originally in blank books, and now preserved in that form, or at present laid in files or accumulated in packages, and arranged by a rough classification in the closets in the Archive room, adjoining the Secretary's private office. They contain, probably, much the greater part of the loose and unarranged papers of the office, as they have from time to time been gleaned from the greater mass, which in former times was stowed away with even less arrangement. Up to about 1856, an apartment in the upper part of the building, which from its remoteness was called "Oregon," but which in the change of interior construction has now disappeared, was the depository of many other papers, which were little cared for, and were open to depredations neither small nor unfrequent. The papers in "Oregon" were seemingly held to be of little account, and were supposed to consist mainly of bills and accounts. To what place or places they were assigned when removed about 1856, it is not easy to learn or to identify them in the present arrangement.

Another large collection of papers, mostly of the present century (though we have referred already to some among them of the Revolutionary period), is at present, for want of better accommodation, packed away in a dark room in the basement ordinarily called "The Dungeon." These include returns of valuations, polls, taxes, banks and saving banks, paupers (with accounts), jails, houses of correction, indigent children, industrial statistics, most of which have been tabulated and printed; the manuscript copy of public documents, — also printed, — the oaths of the state officers, legislative accounts, treasury notes, receipts, and the like.

The returns of votes for many years are tied up in bundles and packed in boxes in the cellar, where are also seven chests and two boxes containing bundles of old papers, of

whose value little is known, and a large quantity of cancelled treasury notes.

The returns of vital statistics are kept in a room with the current printed documents in the lower story. There are returns made by the city and town clerks every year, on blanks of uniform size, of the births, marriages and deaths. They begin in 1841, and for a few succeeding years the returns are meagre; but the series is unbroken, and as bound, it makes now 338 large volumes. Till within a year or two, each volume was provided with an index, arranging the names alphabetically by the first letter of the surname; the method now in vogue is to carry the alphabetizing throughout; but each year still has its distinct index. In the public press and by appeal before the Commission, it has been claimed that the interests of real estate owners demand that one alphabetical index should be provided to the three or four million names contained in these returns, which shall be classified according to towns and by christian and surnames. Calculations made by the Commission, with the aid of experts, have convinced them that the sum of $20,000 at least might be spent in providing such an index, beside a considerable annual outlay for keeping it up. They have sought the opinions of some leading conveyancers, and are confirmed by them in the belief that the value of the index would, at the present time, be out of proportion to its cost.

Thus far in the report, the Commissioners have incidentally made a few minor recommendations, to which they would now add those of wider bearing.

They may be allowed in the first place to say, that it is extremely hazardous to discriminate in the value of public records, so far as that discrimination shall lead to the destruction of any or to the neglect of precautions in preserving all. Lapse of time adds increased value to trivial details, and matters of little moment to our practical living become, with the passage of years, of great importance to the historian, and that phrase means of great interest to the historians' readers. For these reasons, which are not the outcome of theory, but are confirmed by the practical experiences of all archivists, we desire to be understood as following the rule

observed by the wisest keepers of records, when we recommend that scrupulous care of the Archives of the State shall continue to be the duty of those officers charged with their custody, and that in any arrangement of loose papers, no hasty decisions be reached regarding the value of any.

When certain classes of documents have already been made to constitute a series, it seems desirable that from among the papers, loose in themselves or loosely bound, these same series should be continued in bound volumes.

All other papers, loose or loosely bound, comporting in character with the papers, which Mr. Felt included in the so-called MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES, should by a supplemental arrangement be bound in volumes and constitute a continuation of that series. A rough computation, including all previous to 1800, indicates that this recommendation would add not far from 100 volumes to the series. For the papers later than 1800, it may be well to leave to some future custodians the task of adding them to this permanent series; but, meanwhile, it would be desirable that so much work should be done upon them as would group them by their affinities in files or boxes, properly labelled and dated.

It has been our purpose in describing the collections of papers, with which we have had to deal, to indicate as fully as we have been informed, what are the means of access to them at present by way of indexes. It will have been observed that the tendency in the past has been to provide chronological indexes, or detailed tables of contents; and there is little question, that if a single index is to be furnished, this, in the vast majority of cases, serves best the intelligent investigator; and it should not be forgotten that practice in consultation makes intelligence in such matters, and that the visitor to the Archives has at all times the help at hand of the trained assistants of the Secretary.

A complete topical index to these papers, whether made in as many alphabets as the main divisions of the papers would require, or consolidated in one alphabet for the entire body of them, we deem to be impracticable from its enormous aggregate, if it is to be perfect in every name of person and place, as the best indexes of historical books are made. But a topical index of some kind seems to be desir-